

SFM Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards Advisory Committee **Meeting Notes**

Advisory Committee Meeting – June 10, 2005

10am – 4 pm

Office of the State Fire Marshal Headquarters
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FACILITATOR:

Ethan Foote, Co-Chair: SFM Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lee Braun (CALBO, Replacing Steve Jenson
on Advisory Committee)
Rolland Crawford
Joe Garcia
Doug Hensel
John Hofmann
Cal Lewis
Don Oaks
Steve Quarles
Hugh Council, SFM Liaison

STAKEHOLDERS IN AUDIENCE:

Jeff Badelt, J&W Lumber Co.
Charles Jourdain, CA Redwood Association
Kathy Lynch, Lynch & Associates
Mark Pawlicki, Simpson Timber Company and
CA Forestry Association
Kevin Turner, Timbertech Ltd.
David Tyree, American Forest & Paper Assoc.

DOCUMENT HANDOUTS:

**BINDERS CONTAINING COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS, IDENTIFIED AS
ITEMS 24-36:**

Item 24, pages 1-10: E-mails with attachments, from Mark Kluver, Portland Cement Association, sent April 7, 2005, Subject: "Final Comments on Phase II", and May 9, 2005, Subject: "Comments UWI Phase II-Hoover Treated Wood Products".

Item 25, pages 1-2: Letter from Jeffrey Badelt, J&W Lumber Company, dated April 8, 2005, regarding "SFM Proposed Amendments in Chapter 706A.1".

Item 26, pages 1-5: Letter with enclosures from Charles J. Jourdain, California Redwood Association, dated May 11, 2005, regarding "UWI Building Standards Phase II Comments (Revised)" (Supersedes April 21, 2005 letter and proposal, Item 27, below.)

Item 27, pages 1-3: Letter from Charles J. Jourdain, California Redwood Association, dated April 21, 2005. (This letter was superseded by Item 26, above and, therefore, will not be considered.)

Item 28, pages 1-3: Letter from David P. Tyree, American Forest & Paper Association, dated April 21, 2005, regarding "Comments in Regards to Phase II".

Item 29, pages 1-2: Letter from Henri Appy, Simpson Timber Company, dated April 27, 2005, regarding “UWI Building Standards Phase II Comments”.

Item 30, 1 page: E-mail from Mark Pawlicki, sent May 23, 2005, Subject: “Door Code Standard”.

Item 31, pages 1-4: Letter from Joseph T. Holland, III, Hoover Treated Wood Products, dated May 2, 2005, regarding “Comments on Phase II of the Proposed Rule for the Wildland Urban Interface”.

Item 32, pages 1-4: Letter with attachment from Jan Hansen, Lumber Association of California & Nevada, dated May 16, 2005, regarding “UWI Building Standards Phase II Comments”.

Item 33, pages 1-30: Letters with attachments from Bill Towson, Arch Wood Protection, dated May 16 and May 18, 2005, regarding UWI Building Standard Phase II Comments.

Item 34, pages 1-29: Letters with attachments from Philip J. Pifer and William R Gupp, Trex Company, Inc., dated May 18 and May 27, 2005, Subject: “Comments Regarding Phase II of the Proposed WUI Standards”.

Item 35, pages 1-2: E-mail from Thomas D. Melum, Chemco Inc., sent May 23, 2005, Subject: “Phase II CA Bldg. Code Portion (5/3/05 Reformat) “Ignition Resistant Material” P. 3/12 / Sentence addition re: “Identification Compliance”.

Item 36, pages 1-20: Letter with attachments from Vytenis Babrauskas, Fire Science and Technology Inc., dated May 25, 2005, Subject: “SFM Emergency Express Terms Phase II draft”.

Additional handouts not included in binders; distributed during meeting:

E-mail from Ethan Foote to Advisory Committee, dated May 14, 2005, Subject “Final UWIBS Committee Draft”. The Final SFM Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards Committee Draft was submitted May 15, 2005 to SFM for inclusion in the California Building Standards Committee (BSC) Express Terms package.

Item 37: “Glass Breakage in Fires”, from Vytenis Babrauskas, Fire Science and Technology Inc.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS

Member Hugh Council welcomed the Advisory Committee Members and Stakeholders attending. Hugh explained that, at today’s meeting, the Advisory Committee would review written comments submitted relative to Phase II of the SFM Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards Development and consider any recommended changes. Any changes made will be presented during the next Stakeholders’ Meeting scheduled for June 30, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Regional Council of Rural Counties, 801 12th Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, California. An Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2005 at the SFM Headquarters; and a tentative combined meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2005, if necessary. A 10-day review period of the package by the Advisory Committee is planned before the SFM submits the package to the BSC by August 19, 2005.

TODAY'S AGENDA (Presented by E. Foote)

To ensure a clear understanding of:

1. Committee
 2. Background
 3. Goal
 4. Process/Time Line
 5. Scope of what the Advisory Committee is to accomplish
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COMMENTS ON PHASE II

The Committee reviewed and discussed the written comments identified as Items 24 – 37, above. Noted below are actions taken:

Section 705A – Exterior Walls

705A.1 General:

Referencing the Advisory Committee's recommendations made in March, under **Section 705A.1 General**, motion was made by Member Doug Hensel to delete "~~and temperatures capable of igniting combustibles on the inside of the wall~~"; therefore, to read "...provide protection from the intrusion of flames and embers in accordance with 12-7A-1...". Motion seconded by Member Don Oaks; motioned carried.

Member Cal Lewis recalled a comment at the May 20, 2005 Stakeholders' Meeting to delete "...or other standard approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction". Member Lewis made motion to delete from Section 705A.1 "~~or other standard approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.~~" on the basis that the existing building code sections allow for alternative methods to the chief building official for any deviations from this standard from a descriptive mode. Motion seconded by Member Oaks.

Co-Chair Foote noted that these references are made throughout the recommendation, not just under Exterior Walls. Member Hensel noted that he agreed with the deletion in Section 705A.1, however, the document needs to maintain the ability of the building official to accept the different criteria. This has been done, in the Section 703A.3, "...The Authority Having Jurisdiction may use other standards that are equal to or exceed standards listed in this chapter.", and, therefore, needs to remain in 703A.3 to set the tone for the entire recommendation. Member Lewis amended his motion to include deletion of this reference in Sections 704A.5, 705A.1, the Exception in 705A.4, and 706A.2.

After further discussion, Member Lewis withdrew his motion.

Section 706A Ancillary Structures:

Member Hensel identified the issues he sees in need of being addressed by the Committee:

- Is it going to require that the deck be ignition resistant and comply with the deck test standards?
- Is a specific species of wood going to be included after the "or" in Section 706A.1?

Referencing Item 28, and considering the previous discussion at the May 20, 2005 meeting regarding the use of SFM 12-7A-1 "Exterior Wall Test Standard" or ASTM E119 forty-five minutes fire resistance, Co-Chair Foote asked if there should be any reconsideration by the Committee of this fundamental change of using ASTM E119. Member Hensel responded that the Authority Having Jurisdiction, as currently written, has the ability to accept the ASTM E119, therefore, no change is necessary to the proposed recommendations to the SFM.

Motion by Member Hensel to change the wording by removing “and” and inserting “or” in **Section 706A.1 Decking**; “Surfaces, stair treads, risers, and landings of decks, porches, and balconies within 10 feet of the primary structure shall be constructed with ‘Ignition Resistant Materials’ ~~and~~ or comply with the performance requirements of 12-7A-5...”. Motion seconded by Member Oaks.

Through discussion, Member Lewis suggested that the ongoing discussions of decks might jeopardize the whole Phase II from progressing. He recommended that, considering the constraints/timeline, the Advisory Committee may need to consider excluding the issue of decks and appendages from this phase (Phase II), with this important issue to be addressed in the future, perhaps during another phase (Phase III). Member Hensel commented that total removal of 706A does nothing, while, by leaving it in, there is some additional benefit. Member Lewis stated that his recommendation would be to leave Section 706A, and mark “reserved”.

After further discussion, Member Council asked for clarification of the vote. Co-Chair Foote explained that there are two votes on the table. The first vote is whether to change the wording from “and” to “or” in Section 706A.1. The second vote is whether to leave Section 706A, as approved by the BSC, and mark as “reserved”. Following further discussion, the motions were called for the question:

Motion: Change “and” to “or” in **Section 706A.1**; “Surfaces, stair treads, risers, and landings of decks, porches, and balconies within 10 feet of the primary structure shall be constructed with ‘Ignition Resistant Materials’ ~~and~~ or comply with the performance requirements of 12-7A-5...”.
Vote: Yes No Abstain
 6 3 1 (Motion carried)

Motion: Leave **Section 706A** as approved by BSC (Decks), and mark as “reserved”.
Vote: Yes No Abstain
 3 6 1 (Motion did not pass)

Section 705A.2.2 Doors:

Motion was made by Member Lewis to change the 1 3/4 inch criteria (in the existing 1 3/8 inches), based upon the existing building code that states a 1 3/8 solid core wood door, acceptable between a R-3 garage and an inhabitable space. Discussion followed regarding doors with decorative finishes and possible confusion of interpretation. There being no second to this motion, Members Lewis and Braun were tasked with researching and querying the Stakeholders to determine the correct interpretation of a 1 3/4 door and advise the Committee of their findings at the June 30, 2005 meeting. Member Oaks noted, regarding the Exception, there had been a similar issue presented during a Fire Prevention Officer Meeting that if there are noncombustible doors, than there should also be as an Exception of fire-retardant doors. Co-Chair Foote asked Member Oaks to submit to the Committee proposed language concerning this change.

Section 702A – Definitions

IGNITION-RESISTANT MATERIAL:

Motion was made by Member Lewis, based on the Stakeholders’ input at the May 20, 2005 meeting, to remove the last sentence under Note: ~~“The enforcing agency may use other definitions of Ignition Resistant Material that reflect wildfire exposure to building materials and/or the materials performance in resisting ignition.”~~. The basis for this is that existing Sections 104.2.7 and 104.2.8 allow for alternative

methods to be presented for noncompliance or alternative compliance with the intent to the code. Motion seconded by Member Oaks; after discussion, called for the vote:

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	
	2	6	2	(Motion did not pass)

Member Hensel asked if “fire-retardant treated wood” could also meet the definition of “ignition resistant”. Co-Chair Foote responded that there is a need for the Committee to study this further, but the basis of the definition that the fire researchers are supporting is there was a need for something for ignition resistance. Based on the available research; there is no test for it. There is a test that is close that defines fire-retardant treated wood taken from the California Building Code (CBC), twenty years ago. The Committee tried to improve the definition by copying the definition from the CBC for fire-retardant treated wood. Therefore, it is the definition of fire-retardant treated wood, while removing any reference to wood so that other products would comply. With this said, it was surmised that the answer is yes, it is one of the same.

Addition of Reference to ICBO-ES/ICC-ES

Motion was made by Member Lewis to add reference to ICBO-ES/ICC-ES as a testing facility. Therefore, **Section 702A - Definitions, IGNITION-RESISTANT MATERIAL**, the last sentence should be changed to read, “...Such identification shall be issued by ICBO-ES/ICC-ES or a testing facility recognized by the State Fire Marshal...”. Motion was seconded by Member Hensel; motion carried.

Section 705A – Exterior Walls

705A.2.1 Exterior Glazing:

It had been suggested at the Stakeholders’ Meeting of May 20, 2005, that the term “multilayered glazing” was not valid terminology and replacement wording might be “industry standard for insulated glass units” to capture the intent of this Section. Member Lewis will contact Grant Muller for clarification.

Fact Sheets on Windows: Member Quarles was asked to assemble a Fact Sheet to justify the non-use of ASTM E119 for testing windows and frames. Member Quarles will review past publications of Ron Coleman to prepare the Fact Sheet. This Fact Sheet is needed for inclusion in the Statement of Reasons. A bibliography of references is also needed with inclusion of any research papers that supports the content of the Committee’s recommendations of Phase I and II. Member Lewis will assemble and submit the reference binder to Member Council.

Testing and Standards and Prescriptive Language: Member Council stated that this is an important issue and it is possible to write regulations; the difference would be to understand the proposed test protocols.

Co-Chair Foote stated that it was the intent of the Committee to have prescriptive language for every performance section. Dave Tyree was asked to consult with Bob Raymer to obtain prescriptive language. Dave added that this is “performance based” rather than “prescriptive” language. Member Hensel recalled that it was not the desire of the Committee to have a long list.

Member Hensel asked who will maintain the list of products that have passed the test. Member Council responded that there had been discussion at a couple of meetings about the products being listed by the SFM. This listing costs money and in order to get your product listed, it has to be tested to the standard by a recognized test lab. Therefore, it might be better to show the SFM that a product has a UL listing or passed a recognized lab test. Understanding this, Member Hensel stated that currently a material can be searched through ICC-ES to see if it is listed. As a second part, at the building department level, what

will be referenced to determine whether a product did pass this test. Member Hensel stated that, for instance, if the product is run through ICC-ES for testing, then ICC will maintain the product in their library. Member Braun interjected that this is an identified problem. Member Council was asked to provide the Committee with more information on the process of the product listing.

Member Braun asked if it would be worthwhile for the SFM to distribute a letter to manufacturers and retailers alerting them that at a certain date certain SFM standards will have to be met and this can be done through a testing agency that could verify that these standards have been met.

Member Hensel presented some additional questions, with Member Council responding:

-Who would be contacted by a testing lab that had a question? *Answer: SFM.*

-Are the labs proprietary? *Answer: No.*

-Can the protocols be duplicated? *Answer: There appears to be no evidence of this having been an issue in the past.*

Member Council asked that any comments on the testing be presented to the Test Standards Ad Hoc Group (to the attention of Howard Stacy, as lead); then the Ad Hoc Group will forward comments to Co-Chairs Foote and Dargan. Member Quarles will download the document previously posted on the web site by Rodney Slaughter and resubmit to Member Council for posting at the SFM website.

TASKS (FOLLOW-UP)

1. **SFM Staff** to create a Summary Table of Contents for Written Comments Received for Phase II.
2. **Member Hugh Council** to facilitate revision of UWI Contact list with recommended changes provided by Committee members; also to change title of Contact list from "UWI Contacts" to "WUI Contacts".
3. **Members Cal Lewis** and **Lee Braun** to research interpretation of 1 3/4 inch door and advise Committee during June 30, 2005 meeting (Section 705A.2.2).
4. **Member Don Oaks** to submit to the Committee proposed changes to add fire retardant to the Exception of 705A.2.2 (Doors).
5. **Member Lewis** to contact **Grant Muller** for clarification of "multilayered glazing" for an appropriate industry terminology, as it applies to Section 705A.2.1 Exterior Glazing and advise Committee.
6. Fact Sheets: **Member Quarles** to assemble a fact sheet to justify the non-use of ASTM E119 for testing windows and frames.
7. **Member Lewis** will assemble and provide to **Member Council** (for copying and distribution) a binder of reference documents used by the Committee during the development of recommendations.
8. **Dave Tyree** was asked to contact **Bob Raymer** for ~~performance~~ prescriptive-based language. (*Correction noted during 06/30/05 meeting; replace "performance" with "prescriptive".*)
9. **Member Council** to provide more information on the product listing.
10. **Member Quarles** will download the document from the SFM website previously posted by Rodney Slaughter and provide to **Member Council** who will post on the website.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Stakeholders' Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m., at the Regional Council of Rural Counties, 801 12th Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, California.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 8, 2005, beginning a 10:00 a.m. at the SFM Headquarters, 1131 S Street, Sacramento, California

An additional combined meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2005, location to be announced.